

Lord's Supper Observance (Matthew 27:27-54)

It has been our practice over the two years that I have been here to observe the Lord's Supper every fifth Sunday night. We set a whole service aside for a particular reason. Growing up, in some churches we attended, we never observed the Lord's supper, in some where we did, it was just tagged on to the end of a service and was not given the proper respect and reverence that it deserves. I read a story recently about a man named Roger Rose. Roger Rose faced deep sorrow as a child. His young brother was fatally injured in a tragic accident. A dirt road ran alongside their home, and only on rare occasions would an automobile be seen on it. But one day as his brother was crossing on his bicycle, a car came roaring over a nearby hill, and he was run over and killed. Roger said, "Later, when my father picked up the mangled, twisted bike, I heard him sob out loud for the first time in my life. He carried it to the barn and placed it in a spot we seldom used. Father's terrible sorrow eased with the passing of time, but for many years whenever he saw that bike, tears began streaming down his face. "Since then I have often prayed, 'Lord, keep the memory of your death that fresh to me! Every time I partake of Your memorial supper, may my heart be stirred as if it occurred only yesterday. Never let the communion service become a mere formality, but always a tender and touching experience."

This ought to be the expression of our heart when we approach the Lord's Table. Our salvation was free for the asking! It did not cost us one thing to put our faith and trust in Jesus Christ! But just because this so great a salvation was free, does not mean that it was cheap. Jesus Christ the darling son of God, endured the pain and the humiliation of the crucifixion tortures and eventually laid down his life to pay the penalty for our sins. So the command that is given to us by God is to regularly stop and to think about and reflect on the death of Jesus Christ and what it means to us. There are

three things that each and every communion service should cause us to do:

Meditation: We are to stop and realize what it cost for Jesus to purchase our salvation. The passage I read in your hearing at the beginning of this message really happened. It wasn't a fairy tale or a legend. Christ's body was beaten and flogged and abused to that beyond recognition. This bread is a symbol a token to remind us of his broken body. With that bodily abuse came blood, blood from his back, his brow and his hands and his feet. And as a lamb before his shearers as dumb he opened not his mouth. His gave his life for you.

Examination: This moment at the Lord's table is a time of examination. We ought to stay right with God every month of the year, every week of the month, and every day of the week. But if there is any time in which you and I need to come clean with God and confess and forsake sin it is here before the Lord's table. 1 Corinthians 11:26-32 (Marker) This is a serious moment. If you are here today and know not the Lord, for your own safety, do not partake of this supper. If you are out of fellowship with God and are unwilling to repent of your sin, I beg you not to partake. This is a time of examination!

Celebration: It is a time to celebrate 2 Corinthians 5:21 *For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.* There are many thrilling truths that come with salvation. Forgiveness of sins. All my sin past present and future have been paid in full by Jesus' death on the cross. Justified: I now have a righteous standing before God. Not in my own righteousness but that which was given to be by the Lord Jesus. Eternal life: We will never encounter the wrath of God, or be separated from Him! But we will live, love, know, and serve Him through out all eternity. As the old black preacher said, "You got more to shout about than you got to pout about!"

Order of Worship for Lord's Supper

- Congregational Song
- Prayer
- Congregational Song
- Announcements/Offering
- 1 Verse of Congregational Song/Shake Hands
- **Special Song**
- Devotional from Bro. Ronnie
- **Special Song** / Lord's Supper Preparation / Distribute Bread
- Comment on Bread by Bro. Ronnie / Pray / Eat
- **Special Song** / Distribute Wine
- Comment on Wine by Bro. Ronnie / Pray / Drink
- Stand
- Congregational Song

Matthew 26:26-30 And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and blessed it, and brake it, and gave it to the disciples, and said, Take, eat; this is my body. *And he took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, Drink ye all of it; For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins. But I say unto you, I will not drink henceforth of this fruit of the vine, until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom. And when they had sung an hymn, they went out into the mount of Olives.*

1 Corinthians 11:23-31 For I have received of the Lord that which also I delivered unto you, That the Lord Jesus the same night in which he was betrayed took bread: And when he had given thanks, he brake it, and said, Take, eat: this is my body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of me. After the same manner also he took the cup, when he had supped, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood: this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me. For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death till he come. Wherefore whosoever shall eat this bread, and drink this cup of the Lord, unworthily, shall be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord. But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of that bread, and drink of that cup. For he that eateth and drinketh unworthily, eateth and drinketh damnation to himself, not discerning the Lord's body. For this cause many are weak and sickly among you, and many sleep. For if we would judge ourselves, we should not be judged.